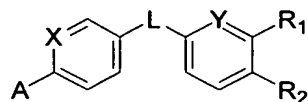


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, amide, ester, or prodrug thereof, wherein

A is aryl or heteroaryl;

X is CH or N;

Y is CH or N;

L is -C(O)N(R₃)- or -N(R₃)C(O)-;

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, aryloxy, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, or heterocycle; and

R₃ is hydrogen or alkyl.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein

A is heteroaryl;

X is CH or N;

Y is CH or N; and

L is -C(O)N(R₃)-.

3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein

A is heteroaryl;

X is CH;

Y is CH;

L is -C(O)N(R₃)-; and

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, or haloalkyl.

4. The compound according to claim 3 that is

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyridinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-nitro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-amino-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-tetraazol-5-yl)benzamide;
 4-[3-(acetylamino)-2-pyridinyl]-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyrimidinyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-cyano-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-thienyl)benzamide;
 4-{3-[acetyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;
 methyl 2-(4-{{(4-tert-butylphenyl)amino}carbonyl}phenyl)-3-pyridinylcarbamate;
 4-(3-{bis[(chloromethyl)sulfonyl]amino}-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyridinyl)benzenesulfonamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-6-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)nicotinamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2,4'-bipyridine-5-carboxamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1,3-oxazol-2-yl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(3-methylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-methylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-ethylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-isopropylphenyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-[1-(methylsulfonyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzamide;
 N-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzamide;

- 4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-N-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-isoxazolyl)benzamide; or
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-fluoro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide.
5. A compound that is 4-{3-[bis(methylsulfonyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide.
6. A compound that is N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-{3-[(dimethylamino)sulfonyl]-2-pyridinyl}benzamide.
7. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
 A is heteroaryl;
 X is CH;
 Y is CH;
 L is -C(O)N(R₃)-;
 R₁ is hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, or halogen; and
 R₂ is heterocycle.
8. The compound according to claim 7 that is
 N-[3-fluoro-4-(1-piperidinyl)phenyl]-4-(2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[4-(1-pyrrolidinyl)phenyl]benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[4-(1-piperidinyl)phenyl]benzamide;
 N-[4-(1-azepanyl)phenyl]-4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 N-[4-(1-azepanyl)phenyl]-4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzamide; or
 N-[4-(1-azepanyl)phenyl]-4-{3-[(dimethylamino)sulfonyl]-2-pyridinyl}benzamide.
9. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
 A is heteroaryl;
 X is CH or N;
 Y is CH or N;

- L is -C(O)N(R₃)-;
R₁ is hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, or halogen; and
R₂ is aryloxy.
10. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
A is heteroaryl;
X is CH;
Y is CH;
L is -C(O)N(R₃)-;
R₁ is hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, or halogen; and
R₂ is aryloxy.
11. The compound according to claim 10 that is 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-phenoxyphenyl)benzamide.
12. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
A is aryl;
X is CH or N;
Y is CH or N; and
L is -C(O)N(R₃)-.
13. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
A is aryl;
X is N;
Y is CH;
L is -C(O)N(R₃)-; and
R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, or haloalkyl.
14. The compound according to claim 13 that is N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-6-phenylnicotinamide.

15. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
A is heteroaryl;
X is CH or N;
Y is CH or N; and
L is -N(R₃)C(O)-.
16. The compound according to claim 1 wherein
A is heteroaryl;
X is CH;
Y is CH;
L is -N(R₃)C(O)-; and
R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, or haloalkyl.
17. The compound according to claim 16 that is 4-tert-butyl-N-[4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)phenyl]benzamide.
18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
19. A method of treating a disorder wherein the disorder is ameliorated by inhibiting vanilloid receptor subtype 1 (VR1) receptor in a mammal, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the disorder is pain.
21. The method according to claim 19 wherein the disorder is urinary incontinence.
22. The method according to claim 19 wherein the disorder is bladder overactivity.

23. The method according to claim 19 wherein the disorder is inflammatory thermal hyperalgesia.